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CHR laments wage theft cases against OFWs, seeks justice mechanisms

Published July 23, 2020, 11:24 AM
by [Czarina Nicole Ong Ki](#)

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has lamented the growing number of wage theft among overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and is urging the government to address the issues they are facing.



Commission on Human Rights (Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN)

Commissioner Gwendolyn LI. Pimentel-Gana, the CHR's focal commissioner on migrants' rights said in a statement that there is lack of support for OFWs from the sending and receiving countries, which has sadly led to cases of wage theft. Aside from this, OFWs also face issues of improper compensation, non-payment of wages, and job loss.

The CHR has suggested that funds for OFWs, be set up at the national level. These funds, either from the government, private institutions, businesses or philanthropic foundations, would later be regained by the government from employers and businesses who were involved in wage theft.



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News, Provincial, Visayas

NEDA-7 sees positive economic recovery outlook for C.Visayas

July 23, 2020, 11:25 AM
by Minerva Newman

CEBU CITY– The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in Central Visayas is optimistic on the region’s economy to recover gradually amid the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic with infrastructure and tourism as key growth drivers. “Our positive outlook continues to be there. We will rebound with our infrastructure projects in place and the plan for mass transport system, which should enhance our attractiveness to foreign companies,” NEDA-7 regional director Efren Carreon said in a virtual press briefing aired on the Facebook page of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (OPAV), Wednesday.

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Where did ₱374.9-B COVID-19 funds go?

July 23, 2020, 11:27 AM
by Genalyn Kabiling

Gov’t confident it can give full accounting of coronavirus response expenses

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Cayetano: Adopt 'K-wave' in revival of PH entertainment industry.

July 23, 2020, 11:29 AM
by Jeffrey Damicog

House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano said the Philippines should emulate South Korea's "K-wave" which popularized Korean pop culture, including K-dramas, in the revival of the local entertainment industry.

"What I think we can do really and focus on is to create a Department of Arts and Culture, to put together an ecosystem wherein our creative artists (get) 'yung knowledge in the digital era," said Cayetano during an interview over CNN Philippines.

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National, News

Private properties protected by Charter, says Sotto, amid plan to take over ABS assets

July 23, 2020, 11:39 AM
by Vanne Elaine Terrazola

Amid the alleged plan to take over the ABS-CBN compound and assets, Senate President Vicente Sotto III on Thursday reminded his colleagues in Congress that private properties are protected by the Constitution.

"Take over ABS-CBN property? Private property is constitutionally protected. Possession is given weight. There is a venue, the courts; and there is due process," Sotto said on Twitter.

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Japan's govt to donate lab equipment, supplies to RITM, San Lazaro Hospital

July 23, 2020, 11:40 AM
by Roy Mabasa

The Japanese government is providing the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) and San Lazaro Hospital laboratory equipment and supplies in an effort to boost their testing capacity for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), also helping ensure quality test results.

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Maynilad explains viral P100,000 water bill

July 23, 2020, 11:40 AM
by Noreen Jazul

Maynilad has explained the P100,000 water bill of a customer that went viral online.

A netizen named Dominic Songco uploaded on July 20 a photo of his June 20 to July 20 water bill amounting to P100,427.48.

“Ano to Maynilad!!!? Inflatable pool lang gamit namin...Pero ‘yung bill nu samin para kaming may RESORT...Maintindihan ko pa kung sa total amount due lang nagkamali eh. pero complete computation talaga eh...Mukhang hyper ata taga compute nu ngaun dyan ha...hehe,” Songco said in his post.

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DFA La Union consular office closed as ECQ imposed in San Fernando City

July 23, 2020, 11:49 AM
by Richa Noriega

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has suspended operations at the consular office in La Union from July 23 to 31.

In an advisory on Wednesday, the DFA said the suspension of its operations is in view of Executive Order No. 24, Series 2020, of the province of La Union declaring the city of San Fernando under an enhanced community quarantine from July 23 to 31.

The department said applicants who have prior appointments during these dates will be accommodated from Aug. 3 to 21 during regular office hours.

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Congress mourns death of employee due to COVID

July 23, 2020, 11:51 AM
by Ben Rosario

The House of Representatives is mourning the death of another employee due to COVID 19 – the third fatality among workers of the legislative chamber infected with the deadly novel coronavirus.

The latest to die was an employee of the Bills and Index Service. He succumbed Wednesday to complications caused by COVID 19, just

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[Pray for the President, church leader urges](#)

July 23, 2020, 11:53 AM
by Christina Hermoso

Radio Veritas president Rev. Fr. Anton Pascual is urging the faithful to pray for President Duterte who is set to deliver his fifth State of the Nation Address on Monday, July 27.

Pascual, who is also executive director of Caritas Manila, the social action arm of the Archdiocese of Manila said, the government's actions and plans are of prime importance at this time given the ongoing pandemic.

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[BI to deport 10 Chinese who tried to sneak into Palawan aboard yacht](#)

July 23, 2020, 11:59 AM
by Jun Ramirez

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is deporting 10 Chinese nationals caught entering the country via Puerto Princesa City in Palawan aboard a luxury yacht without permission from authorities.

BI Commissioner Jaime Morente ordered the deportation proceedings against crewmen and passengers of SY Me Li 31 after the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) apprehended the vessel last Monday off the coast of Concepcion in Puerto Princesa City.

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[Private schools appeal for recognition in Duterte address](#)

July 23, 2020, 12:00 PM
by Merlina Hernando-Malipot

A group urged President Duterte on Thursday to recognize and acknowledge private schools when he delivers the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) next week.

The Federation of Associations of Private School Administrators (FAPSA) said that the inclusion of private schools in the President's SoNA on July 27 can help boost the morale of those in the private education sector during this time of pandemic.

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18 Regional Trial Court judges appointed

July 23, 2020, 12:01 PM
by Rey Panaligan

President Duterte has appointed 18 Regional Trial Court (RTC) judges, the Supreme Court (SC) announced Thursday. Appointed were: Damidel L. Awayan Losito, Legazpi City; Jose Pocholo R. del Rosario, Daraga, Albay; Blancaflor V. Joven Salgado, Tabaco City; Jose Demosthenes M. Salgado, Ligao City; Rene M. dela Cruz, Daet, Camarines Norte; Agaton S. Fajardo, Naga City; Rima B. Orbon Ortega, Iriga City; Ma. Luz B. Torres Clasio, Pili, Camarines Sur; Zach L. Zaragoza Ziga, Sorsogon City;

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TWG formed to study potential rapid antigen COVID testing

July 23, 2020, 12:04 PM
by Genalyn Kabilig

The possible use of rapid antigen testing is now being explored by the government to help boost efforts to screen patients with the new coronavirus disease.

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Infectious Diseases (IATF) has assigned a technical working group to prepare the guidelines on the new diagnostic test designed for rapid detection of the new coronavirus, according to Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles.

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Gov't eyes ready-to-eat meals, house-to-house feeding program for students

July 23, 2020, 12:09 PM
by Argyll Cyrus Geducos

With the absence of face-to-face classes in the coming school year, the government is preparing to deliver ready-to-eat meals to students in their houses to ensure that they are getting enough nutrition amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles made the statement after the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showed that some 5.2 million families experienced involuntary hunger in the past three months which he admits bothers the government.

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National, News

Makabayan bloc needs numbers to elevate ABS-CBN franchise to plenary –Cayetano

July 23, 2020, 12:10 PM
by Jeffrey Damicog

House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano on Thursday, July 23, said Makabayan bloc lawmakers should muster the numbers if they want to raise before plenary ABS-CBN’s franchise renewal.

“It really depends on the numbers kung anong mangyayari (on what will happen),” said the Taguig-Pateros representative during an interview over CNN Philippines.

Cayetano pointed this out after six Makabayan bloc lawmakers backing the network on Wednesday, July 22, asked the House of Representatives committee on legislative franchises to formally submit to plenary its committee report turning down the network’s request for a new franchise.

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Safety first in limited SoNA coverage

July 23, 2020, 12:13 PM
by Argyll Cyrus Geducos

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said that the committee in charge of planning President Duterte’s State-of-the-Nation Address (SoNA) was probably only thinking of everyone’s safety when it decided to limit the media coverage of the annual event.

Nograles made the statement the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) announced in an advisory that members of the media will not be allowed inside the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City during the President’s SoNA on Monday.

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Accessible interventions for students with disabilities sought

July 23, 2020, 12:23 PM
by Hannah Torregoza

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday stressed the need for the government to increase early interventions and diagnosis for students with disabilities especially now since the COVID-19 pandemic is hampering their access to these essential health and education services.

Gatchalian, who had earlier filed Senate Bill No. 171 or the proposed Inclusive for Education for Children and Youth with Special Needs Act, said interventions should be made available to children aged zero to four at child development and daycare centers.

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DENR eyes ecotourism activities in Cagayan Valley

July 23, 2020, 12:31 PM
by Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing ecotourism activities in Cagayan Valley, aiming to ease the economic burden on the region as caused by the coronavirus pandemic. DENR-Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan, chair of the Regional Ecotourism Committee (REC), said she will ask for a meeting with the Department of Tourism (DOT) to discuss the plan.

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Stiff penalties, jail best ways to strike fear on quarantine violators – Ano

July 23, 2020, 12:33 PM
by Chito Chavez

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año on Thursday stressed that stiff penalties and jail terms are the best options to strike fear to defiant quarantine protocol violators. With more than 200,000 quarantine violators arrested for various violations, Año pointed out that this will make hard-headed individuals hesitate to defy these regulations. Año also estimated more or less 3,000 individuals are still languishing in jail for failing to wear masks, defying physical distancing, and for committing other quarantine violations.

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Jeepney, PUV drivers troop to DSWD to express gripe

July 23, 2020, 12:41 PM
by Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

Transport group Piston led jeepney drivers and other public utility vehicle drivers to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) central office in Quezon City on Thursday to assert their share in the government's Social Amelioration Program (SAP). According to the protesters, most of them have not received any assistance from the government since the lockdown began in March.

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Another suggestion is for a reformation of the justice system by setting up expedited labor courts, waving of court fees, putting in place wage protection systems, provision of worker hotlines in different languages, facilitating power of attorney procedures, allowing for remote testimony post repatriation, providing legal aid, and encouraging workers to come forward to register their labor grievances, among other things.

Pimentel-Gana said that speeding up the payment of wages of OFWs must be recognized and addressed because countless families and communities are depending on it to survive, especially now with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) health crisis still looming.

“For our part, CHR will continue to engage with government and civil society in finding durable solutions and redress for human rights grievances that beset OFWs and members of their families especially in this time of pandemic,” she said.

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